



# THE FRIENDS OF BRAESIDE PARK

# NEWSLETTER

**AGM Notification**  
**Sunday 6th August 2017**  
**2:00 pm**  
**At the Braeside Park Visitor Centre**

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The Friends are seeking to reduce postage costs.

If you would like your newsletters emailed then please send your email details to [braesideparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:braesideparkfriends@gmail.com)

**Park Office**

**8427 2027**



**Braeside Park**  
470 Lower Dandenong Road,  
Braeside 3195  
Melway Map 88 D8

*The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of Parks Victoria or its staff.*

## Presidents Report

By Judith Sise.

Parks Victoria offered the many volunteers who work within the Parks across Melbourne free entry to the Melbourne Zoo with a sausage sizzle lunch throw in on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June as way of a thank you for the incredible number of unpaid hours they provide in many state parks. One speaker did mention the number of full time Parks Victoria rangers the volunteer's hours is equivalent too but the microphone was dodgy and the speaker seemed hesitant to use the microphone correctly so most of what he said in his five-minute talk was lost in the general hubbub of the zoo background.

I think I heard the speaker emphasize growing scientific evidence shows that spending time in nature is good for our mind, body and soul. Contact with nature is critical for our physical, mental, social and spiritual health. It has positive effects on our ability to concentrate, learn, solve problems and be creative. It boosts our immune system and helps us relax.

Friends Groups all know that healthy nature sustains our life, livelihoods and livability. Conserving parks for present and future generations provides inspirational and therapeutic settings that foster lifelong connections with nature and each other. Parks that are valued and maintained are also fundamental to economic growth and vibrant and healthy communities so it always comes as a bit of let down when the budget to maintain Parks and to employ Rangers is slashed or reduced. It is probably too political for these employees to express such opinions.

Braeside Park is facing yet another change as the Mordialloc By-Pass bulldozers into our neighborhood. A group opposed to the building of the By-Pass have been informing the community and groups of their reasons for opposing the completion of the By-Pass. The Friends of Braeside Park are interested in the point of view of the Federal Member for Goldstein, Tim Wilson, this week. Change is inevitable but it does need to be debated how to change so that the community has the maximum benefit. It does seem as if the "car" still reigns supreme and the environment and its benefits is overlooked.

The Zoo visit was a great chance for networking and Parks Victoria was using the gathering to introduce their new ParkConnect which allows anyone to set up an account, register to volunteer, view and join upcoming activities, join a volunteer group or start and manage their own group.

The benefits to established Groups could be attracting new members and enhance the group's profile. It could also connect with other like-minded groups and assist to plan and manage group activities. It sounds like a good idea and Parks Victoria are going to run a series of meetings to introduce the program over the next six months. The Zoo excursion and sausage sizzle was fun and ParkConnect might be a helping hand the Friends of Braeside Park could use.

### The Fabulous Night walk program

By Margaret Hunter

The Friends group run night walks in Braeside Park on the first Friday of the month, and other occasions as required. We limit participants in these walks to 20 people, and they are frequently booked out early in the month. We run special walks for groups including scouts and guides, adult groups including U3A groups as per bookings. The walks leave from the Visitor Centre Car park at 7.00 pm and run for



around an hour and a half returning around 8.30 pm.



These are led by guides from the Friends of Braeside Park, who use safety procedures, have a first aid kit, and use special red spotlights to view the nocturnal animals of the park including possums, rabbits, tawny frogmouths, foxes, and a range of other animals. We often visit areas of the park not usually visited including the heathland, and racecourse trail (with special walks planned ) to record the wildlife in this newly opened area.

The attached photos are from the most recent night walk on 19 May, when we spotted three tawny frogmouths (very difficult to spot), rabbits and many possums. The children in particular were absolutely delighted even ecstatic with the possums, and rabbits as well as the opportunity to visit the heathland, closed

usually with special access.

We ask only a gold coin donation for these activities, and the willingness to enjoy the activities of the nocturnal animals of Braeside Park, a very special and rewarding experience. This is a very special experience enjoyed by over one hundred participants in 2017 since April. Book-

ings are taken on the Friends email address [braeside-](mailto:braeside-parkfriends@gmail.com)



[parkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parkfriends@gmail.com) or to Margaret Hunter on the contact number 0417 323 460.

## **Wednesdays with Ernie's 'A Team'** *By Bev Bancroft, Treasurer*

The "A" team is ready for action but we have lost a couple of our long time volunteers in Bill & Tom.

Many thanks for their great contributions.

We have had quite a bit of interest from younger people, interested in Braeside.

Also thanks for effort & hard work that has been generated over the years by our volunteers.

### **VISITORS' CENTRE**

A couple of mornings spreading mulch with team work – some filling wheelbarrows,  
others moving or raking the mulch. Good Job.

### **GRASSLANDS**

Visits out to the Grasslands have included some weeding & for the fit, removal of tree guards & frames at the nearby 2 million trees site

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

*Join in the activities with Parks Victoria Rangers  
every Wednesday from 9 am - 12 noon  
- meet at the Park Office  
- morning tea provided*

*Help is needed for a variety of jobs - everyone most welcome.*

*Wednesday afternoons continue  
from 1 pm - 3 pm in the Nursery & Community Garden.*

## **Newsletter Contributions**

Thank you to Margaret Hunter, Judith Sise, Bev Bancroft, Stephen Garth & Park Staff for this months contributions

If you have an item to share in future editions or have any feedback in relation to the newsletter, please contact the editor at

## The Knowledge Banquet Melbourne, by Margaret Hunter

On Monday 15 May, I attended the Knowledge Banquet, at Zinc in Federation Square hosted by the Port Phillip & Western Port Catchment Authority. This is a group session with attendance by environmental representatives, writers, historians and land managers from friends groups, government agencies eg, DELWP, councils, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and interested members of the public.

The theme in 2017, was 'All You Can Learn.' With experienced and valued speakers on how to manage conversations with politicians (always useful) was former Victorian Minister, John Thwaites. He spoke about the ways to approach these conversations with the presentation of information, and his Ten Commandments to Influence politicians.

This was reinforced by Gregory Andrews the Commissioner for Threatened Species in the Commonwealth arena, who by appearing via SKYPE, reinforced the message of the later speakers on the emerging role of social media and its development. We had an entertaining talk by John Faine of ABC radio drive show fame who told us how to get us to convince him to read an email -and get an item on his show. He reads very few emails that are sent to him as he received so many. We also heard from the Social Media Officer from the Shepparton Council who told us of the increasing reliance and support for activities and causes on social media, and the need for careful training. The issue was raised of safety and security, with the need to have appropriate training for friends group to effectively work with social media. It was noted that traditional methods of communication are waning in use and significance.

The day ended with an entertaining and enjoyable session with Rod Quantock, research assistant at Melbourne University, and otherwise well known comedian. With the use of butchers paper, a marker and a board we were roundly entertained in learning why sustainability is a difficult concept to understand, and why it is important to look at this in our environmental practices including air and water quality, energy use, and future options in these areas. The topics covered were needless to say many and varied. We left the venue after a wonderful day of learning and networking to drive or train home after a successful and rewarding day. We all learnt things information of a many and varied nature about other than environmental interests.

### **AGM 6th August 2017 AGM 2:00pm at the Visitor Centre.**

**Guest Speaker: Maxwell Campbell, President of the Victorian Field Naturalists.  
Specialising in Terrestrial Invertebrates.**

**Will be talking about climate change and the effects on invertebrates.**

Birds of Braeside Park - Stephen Garth—

Extract from Email below—still plenty of birds for the next newsletter.

Hi Des.

I'm the photographer that you bumped into yesterday (16/5/17).

I've been bird watching and photographing for about 3 1/2 years now. In that time I have been to Braeside on multiple occasions. I would have taken thousands of photographs at Braeside and have about 190 shots from Braeside in my catalog (I only keep between 5% and 10% of the shots I take). Attached are 19 of my better shots from Braeside. The last 4 are from yesterday.





## Friends of Braeside Park—Activity Calendar

### Weekday Community Project-The A Team:

Every Wednesday with Ranger staff commencing at 9:00 - 12:00 from the Park Office. Activities can include weeding, mowing weeds, mulching, planting, fencing etc.

### Nursery - Plant Propagation:

1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon and  
Every Wednesday 1pm to 3pm  
Undertaking a variety of propagation activities.

### Committee Meeting:

2nd Thursday, monthly 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Park Office.  
The Committee meets to make decisions about the running of the group.

### Water Quality Monitoring:

3rd Tuesday, monthly 9:00 to 12:00 noon from the Park Office.  
Water samples are taken and monitored from the Dingley Waterway and Wetland.

### Bird Observations:

A set bird observation is completed monthly around the main wetland.  
Call Ranger Janelle Cadd on (03) 8427 2027 to become part of this program.

### Birds Australia Monitoring Program:

10 bird monitoring transects are monitored in this program with 5 completed one month and the other 5 the next month.  
The sessions occur on the 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 am alternating between the following starting locations.

Park Office January, March, May, July, September, November  
Robin Car Park February, April, June, August, October, December

### Special Activities:

Night walks are offered from April through to September. Gold Coin Donation.  
For details and bookings contact the park office on 8427 2027

### Community Nursery is Open on the Third Sunday of the Month

#### Friends of Braeside Park Inc.

**President:** Judith Sise **Secretary:** Margaret Hunter  
**Assistant Secretary:** Currently vacant **Treasurer:** Bev Bancroft  
**Newsletter Editor:** Vacant **Webmaster:** Frank Russo  
**Publicity Officer:** Vacant

**Postal Address:** PO Box 608 Braeside, Vic. 3195 **Phone:** (03) 8427 2027

**Email:** braesideparkfriends@gmail.com

**Web:** [www.braesideparkfriends.org.au](http://www.braesideparkfriends.org.au)

**ACN:** A 002 4027 B

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